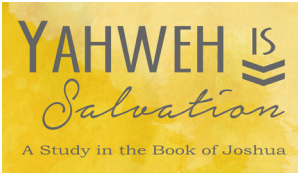


## Today's Passage



Pastor Tony will be continuing in the Book of Joshua.  
Our passage for today is Joshua 13:1-7.

## Sermon Notes



# New Life Christian Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Cor 5:17

Sunday, December 27, 2015

Vol. 9, Issue 12

## pastoral ponderings

### The Ultimate Gift

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

As you are reading this, Christmas from a calendar and secular view is over once again! It seems each year Christmas decorations, cyber Mondays, black Fridays are coming earlier and earlier. The big box stores move from one holiday to another at break neck speed and seemingly without effort. People rush from store to store often in the middle of the night or search Amazon in pajamas looking for that special gift. Trees are cut down or taken out of boxes and decorated. Food is purchased and prepared. Presents are wrapped carefully and then unwrapped at warp speed in seconds leaving piles of boxes and wrapping paper on the floor in the midst of the chaos. Just writing this makes me exhausted.

Growing up, Christmas was the most exciting holiday I could think of. We lived in Chicago but would jump in the old station wagon packed with presents and drive to Bemidji, Minnesota where my grandmother lived. Back then, there were no freeways. We would go through all the little towns along the way. I remember we would leave Chicago that was often without snow and in the 30's but by the time we got to Bemidji, it was below zero with lots of snow on the ground. I have a lot of great memories but, I'm sure as many of you can remember, there are a few presents that were memorable ones. They stood the test of time and were used for a long time even after Christmas had come and gone. For me "Creepy Crawlers" was that gift! Again many of you, if you are under 40 years of age, probably have no clue what this was but I loved it as much as my future wife loved her Easy Bake Oven. I could make all kinds of insects by putting this liquid plastic in molds and then baking them to form different color insects. I would create all kinds of weird insects. I don't see those around anymore probably because they found the fumes from the plastic caused some kind of cancer like everything else today.

For most people Christmas is synonymous with gifts. Ask any child what they like most about Christmas and they will most likely say they like the presents. Presents are even part of the story of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ when the magi brought gold, frankincense and myrrh.

*Continued --->*

# Visitor Card

We'd like to get to know you. Please take a moment to fill out this card then drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

- First-time Visitor  
 Returning Visitor

Name

Date

Email

Phone#

## How to access the sermon archives:

To download sermons for **free**, go to [newlifechristiancommunity.com](http://newlifechristiancommunity.com)

For a CD or DVD (\$2 charge), please fill out the form below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Your order will be available for pick up at the video booth the following week.

Name

Sermon Date

Scripture Passage

# Prayer Card

If you are in need of prayer or would like to share a praise report, please share it below and drop it in the wooden offering box near the back of the room.

Please check a box below

- This may be added to our congregation prayer wall.
- Share this only with the pastors and elders.

Optional:

Name

Email

Phone#

If you would like someone to pray with you today, you may come to the front immediately following the service.

## Ministry Directory

**Building & Grounds Ministry:**  
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**Transportation Services:**  
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**Treasurer:**  
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**Youth Group Ministry:**  
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## pastoral ponderings cont.

As I prepared to write this pondering, being overwhelmed by all the commercialization of Christmas, I was able to reflect on the ultimate gift that we at New Life have received. It's one that is nonperishable, eternal, and perfect. It's the very thing we hear about every week at New Life and will continue to hear about every week. That is the gift of Jesus Christ. Our sins have been forgiven as far as the East is from the West. We no longer live in condemnation. We rest assured in our eternal life because of the birth and resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ. This is the ultimate gift which makes every other gift insignificant. It is the very reason we should celebrate Christmas year round. I think that's why we leave our Christmas lights up year round.

I want to conclude by asking you to reflect on the free gift we have been given. Don't place this gift on layaway, or return it to look for a better gift, or let it become mundane, because there is no better gift! Rejoice in it, enjoy it, and make sure you share this gift freely with everyone you come in contact with. and may we continue to celebrate Christmas for the rest of our earthly lives.

Christ Greg.



The New Life Annual Business Meeting will be held on January 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am.

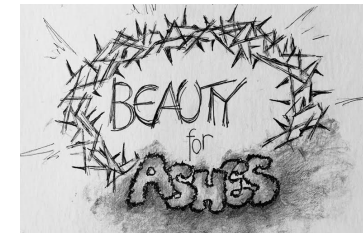


Next week is potluck sunday.  
Please bring your favorite dish to pass.

## December Memory Verse

### 2 Corinthians 4:6

"For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."



Save the Date!

Pam Stratmoen's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Retreat will be held at Oak Forest Center, January 22-24! The theme this year, "Beauty for Ashes" (Isaiah 61: 1-4). There will be live speakers, testimonies, great worship, counseling, crafts, massages, and vendor tables during free time. Share this with all your friends and family to spread the word. You will be blessed! Cost this year, \$90 for entire retreat, \$45 for one day (Saturday). If you have attended in the past and know the power of this retreat, please share this with someone who you want to see blessed.

## Check out New Life Online

[newlifechristiancommunity.com](http://newlifechristiancommunity.com)

Find Links to:

- Events • Sermons Online
- Set Lists • The Table • & More

**Pastor Tony:**  
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**Pastor Chandler:**  
[pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com](mailto:pastorwiley.nlcc@gmail.com)

**Secretary: Cory Mattson**  
715-417-0945



Looking for some good wholesome family fun on New

Year's Eve? Have neighbors or friends you want to include? Well, we have the perfect evening to enjoy! Come to New Life. Starting at 6:00 p.m. and going until 10:00 p.m., we will be having a New Year Eve celebration. There will be fun and frolic for the youngest to the oldest to enjoy. Bring a Snack or your favorite appetizer to share, we will have Bottled water, Soda, and Coffee for you to enjoy. If you have a favorite game to play, bring it (just beware of playing with Pastor Chandler, as he is a little competitive). There will be a G rated movie shown at 7:00 p.m. for all the youngsters, on the big screen and adults can gather in the banquet room for a few planned games. Perhaps you can envision you and your spouse playing the "The Oldie Wed Game" or a round of Catch Phrase? Either way, you will have a blast playing!

## Pastoral Eldership Team:

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Paul Gilbertson	715-755-3517
Dale Mattson	715-566-2302
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